

## DOCTORAL THESIS

### **Kant's Baconian method as a transformation of Aristotelian transcendental philosophy: a propaedeutic**

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## ABSTRACT

This dissertation deals with the transcendental philosophy of Immanuel Kant. I provide the background of transcendental philosophy before Kant, beginning from Aristotle. Kant transformed Aristotelian transcendental philosophy by using the method of the sciences in the Modern period. This method was initiated by Francis Bacon, in his method of induction. Isaac Newton transformed the method so that it could deal with verification and falsification. This Newtonian method was taken up into chemistry, serving as a guide for the analysis and synthesis of elements. Kant used this method in his transcendental philosophy, with a view to putting metaphysics onto the path of a science. Kant was first awakened to transcendental idealism in 1769, though he did not put forth a full transcendental philosophy until 1781. In his mature transcendental philosophy, he not only uses the scientific method, but he also illustrates the categories using biological imagery. After looking at the broad contours of Kant's transcendental philosophy, I deal with the first criticism of his transcendental philosophy. In replying to his critic, Kant made explicit his scientific method, while drawing from the thought of David Hume and Thomas Reid. With Kant's explanations of his transcendental philosophy in hand, I turn to an element of his non-transcendental philosophy, namely moral philosophy, in order to provide a contrast that serves to illuminate the precise nature of his transcendental philosophy.

## Table of Contents

Declaration Page	i
Abstract	ii
Acknowledgements	iii
List of Abbreviations	vi
Chapter One: Introduction	1
Chapter Two: Transcendental Philosophy before Kant	8
2.1: Introduction	8
2.2: Plato's Transcendent Philosophy	12
2.3: Aristotle and the Foundations of Transcendental Philosophy	14
2.4: Transcendental Philosophy in the Scholastics	20
2.4.1: Thomas Aquinas and the Transcendentals	20
2.4.2: Duns Scotus and Transcendental Philosophy	22
2.4.3: Francisco Suarez and Transcendental Philosophy	27
2.5: Early Modern Transcendental Considerations	32
2.6: Late Modern Transcendental Philosophy	35
2.7: Conclusion	37
Chapter Three: Kant's Baconian Method	40
3.1: Introduction	40
3.2: Background Material for Understanding Kant's Method	41
3.2.1: The Port-Royal Logic	41
3.2.2: Francis Bacon	45
3.2.3: Isaac Newton	59
3.2.4: Chemistry	62
3.3: Kant's Early Statements on Method	68
3.4: CPR B Preface	77
3.5: Conclusion	87
Chapter Four: Kant's Transcendental Philosophy	92
4.1: Introduction	92
4.2: Kant's Transcendental Philosophy before the <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i>	94
4.2.1: Kant's Early Transcendental Realism	94
4.2.2: Kant's Awakening from His Dogmatic Slumber	96
4.2.3: Ideality in the <i>Inaugural Dissertation</i>	107
4.2.4: Kant's Turn to Transcendental Philosophy	114
4.2.5: The Aristotelian Nature of Kant's Transcendental Philosophy	123
4.3: Ideality and Reality	128
4.3.1: From Ideality to Transcendental Ideality	128
4.3.2: Transcendental Ideality and Empirical Reality	130

4.4: Kant's Mature Transcendental Philosophy	138
4.4.1: Legal Biology—Acquisition and Epigenesis	138
4.4.2: Kant and the <i>Göttingen Review</i>	157
4.4.3: Kant's Chemical Experiment as an <i>Experimentum Crucis</i>	168
4.4.4: Kant's Mature Transcendental Realism	174
4.5: Conclusion	181
Chapter Five: Building on the Transcendental	183
5.1: Introduction	183
5.2: The CPR Doctrine of Method	183
5.3: Morality as Non-Transcendental Philosophy	201
5.4: Conclusion	216
Chapter Six: Conclusion	218
Appendix—Kant's Baconian Tables	222
Bibliography	234